

Letter of Transmittal

I am pleased to transmit the **Annual Report of the Illinois Courts** for 2003. This report provides a comprehensive summary of the numerous projects and activities pursued by the Illinois Judicial Branch during 2003, a pictorial and biographical overview of the Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, and a photographic sampling of the diverse architecture of Illinois' supreme, appellate, and circuit courthouses. Further, the Report contains a summary of the 2003 Illinois Judicial Conference Annual Meeting, statistical data on court caseloads, a summary of the Supreme Court's several committees, and an overview of state and local funding for the Illinois Judicial Branch. Also included in the Report is a brief description of the six divisions that comprise the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

The Administrative Office is indebted to the clerks of the supreme, appellate, and circuit courts for their assistance in supplying the statistical information provided herein. I also wish to express my gratitude to all who contributed to the development and preparation of this Report. While the upcoming year presents broad challenges to the Judicial Branch, including effective stewardship of limited fiscal resources, the judges and employees of the Illinois courts remain committed to providing the highest level of judicial services to the people of Illinois in 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Y. Cobbs", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cynthia Y. Cobbs, Director
Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts